

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method Method for supplying power to at least one load [[(3)]] during mains failure of a main voltage source, wherein a plurality of batteries serve [[(1)]] as an emergency voltage source supply to the at least one load [[(3)]] during failure of the main a mains voltage source (2) and are connected to the main mains voltage source, (2), with the following steps the method comprising:

[[a]] splitting of the plurality of the batteries (1) connected in series into at least two battery groups, with the batteries of each group being connected in series; (4, 5);

[[b]] connecting connection of each of the battery groups (4, 5) to the main mains voltage source [[(2)]] for charging, and

connecting e) series connection of the battery groups in series (4, 5) for use as the emergency voltage source.

2-20. (Canceled)

21. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein splitting the battery groups and connecting the battery groups to the main voltage source comprises doing so using a single switching device.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein connecting the battery groups in series for use as the emergency voltage source comprises doing so by having the switching device switch over into a state different from a state in which the batteries groups are split..

23. (New) The method of claim 22, further comprising having the switching device switch over into the different state automatically upon the failure of the main voltage source.

24. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising limiting a charge voltage on the battery groups using a charge-voltage limiting circuit.

25. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising interrupting further discharging of the battery groups using an exhaustive discharge protective circuit after the battery groups have discharged to a specified value.

26. (New) A device for supplying power to at least one load during failure of a main voltage source, the device comprising:

batteries connected so as to be connected in series to deliver power to the at least one load during failure of the main voltage source;

a splitting circuit configured to split the batteries into at least two battery groups, with the batteries of each battery group being connected in series; and

a connection circuit configured to connect each of the battery groups to the main voltage source.

27. (New) The device of claim 26, wherein a switching device provides both the splitting circuit and the connection circuit.

28. (New) The device of claim 27, wherein the switching device is configured to connect the battery groups in parallel for charging and in series for supplying power to the load.

29. (New) The device of claim 27, wherein the switching device comprises at least one relay.

30. (New) The device of claim 29, wherein contacts of the relay are arranged in a release state during failure of the main voltage source, such that the battery groups are connected in series to supply power to the load.

31. (New) The device of claim 26, wherein a resistance for charging is assigned to each battery group.

32. (New) The device of claim 26, wherein each battery group comprises the same number of batteries.

33. (New) The device of claim 26, further comprising a charge-voltage limiting circuit connected in parallel with each of the battery groups.

34. (New) The device of claim 26, further comprising an exhaustive discharge protection circuit connected to the battery groups.

35. (New) The device of claim 26, wherein the splitting circuit comprises at least a first transistor configured as an electronic switch.

36. (New) The device of claim 35, wherein the battery groups are connected to feeder lines of the main voltage source or the load by second and third transistors.

37. (New) The device of claim 36, wherein a constant current source is connected between the second transistor and an associated battery group.

38. (New) The device of claim 26, further comprising a diode device for decoupling connected between the main voltage source and the battery group.

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39. (New) The device of claim 38, wherein the diode device comprises at least one diode connected in a connecting line to the main voltage source.